INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1085 — Washington, D. C. — May 11, 1946

Directory Information Needed

Canners who have not yet returned the questionnaire recently sent them in regard to the 1946 Canners Directory are urged to do so at once. Since the Directory is widely used by the canning and allied industries, it is desirable that it be as accurate and as complete as possible. Cooperation on the part of all canners in the prompt return of the questionnaire sent them is necessary in order that the Directory may be published and distributed without undue delay.

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

In spite of the two-week's truce in the coal strike, called Friday afternoon, there were no indications, as the INFORMATION LETTER went to press, that the restrictions on the use of coal and the freight embargo, with its exceptions, reported in this issue, would be lifted.

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Canned food items expected to be removed from price control next week are anchovies, shad, fish cakes, fish chowder, spinach, beets, beet juice, and pickles.

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Efforts of the Association to have government officials and agencies reinstate the "essentiality" of canning in the current emergency appear to be meeting with some success. This is evidenced in the text of the coal conservation order covering utilities issued May 9 by CPA Administrator John D. Small in which perishable food processing plants are given priorities and are listed as "essential community services," as well as in the emergency coal order issued May 7 by Solid Fuels Administrator J. A. Krug and reported elsewhere on this page.

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Latest estimates of the Cuban sugar crop for 1946 are being revised downward. U. S. refiners believe that the yield will likely be about 4,400,000 tons of raw sugar instead of the 4,600,000 estimated by USDA.

Containers Embargo-free

Containers and packaging materials were granted an exception from the general freight embargo which became effective on May 10. As originally issued, Car Service Embargo 237 excepted canned foods but did not except the containers necessary to their being packed and shipped. The National Canners Association and its Traffic Committee, the Department of Agriculture, and representatives of the can and glass container manufacturers through concerted action pointed out to the Office of Defense Transportation and the Association of American Railroads the food losses that would result from any attempt to handle container and packaging shipments under special permits. Details of the exceptions applicable to the canning industry and the information required in making an application for permits in the case of repair, maintenance, and other necessary items in operating processing plants will be found on page 204.

Food Processors Assured Emergency Coal Supplies by SFC

Food processors, who have less than a 10-days' supply of coal on hand, have been assured emergency coal by the Solid Fuels Administration in an order issued on May 7, superseding a previous regulation of April 5. The provision reads as follows:

Retail dealers and lake and tidewater dock operators engaged in the commercial distribution of bituminous coal are hereby prohibited from delivering such coal except to: (a) the following consumers provided they certify in writing to the retail dealer, lake or tidewater dock operator that they have less than a 10-days' supply: public utilities which render public service by supplying electricity, water, gas, sewage disposal service or street railway transportation to any community, railroads, laundries, hospitals, *food processing plants* (including milk plants, dairies and commercial bakeries) and refrigeration plants.

Program of the N.C.A. Directors' Meeting

Discussion of the 1946 program on canned foods with representatives of the Office of Price Administration and Department of Agriculture, decision on the time and place of the 1947 Convention, and a number of matters relating to Association service will highlight the program of the mid-year meeting of the N.C.A. Board of Directors, May 22 and 23 in the West Ballroom of the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.

The luncheon speaker on May 22 will be Geoffrey Baker, Office of Price Administration, following whose address the meeting will take

up the discussion of this year's Government canned foods program. Speaker at the luncheon meeting on May 23 will be announced later.

A feature of this year's Directors' meeting will be a visit by the members (two-thirds of whom are newly-elected) to the N.C.A. headquarters for a tour through the building and an explanation of the functioning of the various divisions of the staff. This will take place at the close of the Wednesday sessions.

At the opening session Wednesday President Fred A. Stare will make a statement explaining the procedure in the appointment of this year's Association committees. The balance of the morning session will be given over to reports of various N.C.A. committees, concluding with that of the Planning Committee. More committee reports will be presented and discussed at the Thursday sessions, important among these being the report of the Apportionment Committee on proposed new methods of apportioning membership on the Board of Directors. Program details follow:

PROGRAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 22—10:30 a.m., Shoreham Hotel

Morning Session

Roll call

Resignations and filling of vacancies

Opening statement—President Fred A. Stare

Report on budget and revised accounting system

Reports of Committees—

- Building
- Legislative
- Foreign Trade
- Manpower
- Planning

Luncheon

Speaker—Geoffrey Baker, Deputy Administrator for Price, Office of Price Administration

Afternoon Session

Government's 1946 Program on Canned Foods. Discussion leaders—Representatives from the Office of Price Administration and U. S. Department of Agriculture

Visit to N.C.A. offices

May 23—10:00 a.m., Shoreham Hotel

Morning Session

Reports of Committees—

- Tin Advisory
- Sugar Advisory
- Traffic
- Board Apportionment

Luncheon

Speaker—To be announced

Afternoon Session

Discussion of 1947 Convention—President Fred A. Stare

Resignations and filling of vacancies

Preliminary to the Board's sessions will be a meeting of the Planning Committee on May 19; a daytime meeting of the Apportionment Committee May 20 and an evening session that date of the Executive Committee—all at N.C.A. headquarters. The Administrative Council will meet at the West Ballroom of the Shoreham on Tuesday, May 21.

Forthcoming Meetings

May 13-14—National Canners Association Sanitation Conference, Civic Auditorium, San Jose, Calif.

May 14—Food and Drug Administration, Public Hearing for Minimum Standards of Identity and Quality for Canned Green and Wax Beans, Washington, D. C.

May 14—U. S. Department of Agriculture, Meeting of Processed Cherry Industry Advisory Committee, South Agriculture Bldg., Washington, D. C.

May 16—Office of Price Administration, Meeting of Maine Canned Sardine Industry Advisory Committee, Washington, D. C.

May 19—National Canners Association, Planning Committee Meeting, Association Headqnarters, Washington, D. C.

May 20—Office of Price Administration, Meeting of Canned Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, Washington, D. C.

May 21—National Canners Association, Administrative Council Meeting, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.

May 22-23—National Canners Association, Board of Directors Meeting, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.

May 27-June 7—Food Processors Foundation, Cost Accounting Institute for Frozen Foods, College of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif.

June 2-4—Flavoring Extract Manufacturers Association, 36th Annual Convention, Drake Hotel, Chicago.

June 3—Michigan Canners Association, Spring Meeting, Traverse City.

June 17-18—Mayonnaise and Salad Dressing Manufacturers Association, Palmer House, Chicago, Ill.

June 17-19—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Mid-year Meeting, Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, Pa.

June 20—National Pickle Packers Association, Mid-year Meeting, Bismarck Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

July 10-20—Indiana Canners Association, Technicians' School, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

July 24-August 2—New York State Experiment Station, Canning Technicians School, Geneva, N. Y.

December 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, Annual Fall Convention, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

December 10-11—Ohio Canners' Association, Annual Convention, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

Technical Advisory Committee on Baby Foods to Be Formed

Representatives of the principal baby food packers will meet at the Association's Washington Laboratory on May 15 for the purpose of organizing a technical advisory committee to work with the Association's Scientific Research Committee and the Laboratory on problems concerning the packing of baby foods.

The committee, which is being formed as a result of discussions with technologists connected with several of the packers of baby foods, will meet in the future whenever a sufficient number of members feel that there are problems which should be discussed for the benefit of the industry. In this way, the Association will be kept informed of problems confronting this branch of the industry and will be assisted with plans for securing needed information.

Some Fruit Ceilings Lifted

Fresh apricots, sweet cherries, plums and Italian prunes were exempted from price control on May 7 by the Office of Price Administration. At the same time, OPA suspended price ceilings on watermelons for an indefinite period.

Macaroni Products Increase

"Macaroni products, which include macaroni, spaghetti, vermicelli, and egg noodles, have become increasingly popular in the United States over the past 30 years," Alice J. Mullen of the U. S. Department of Commerce reported this week in the April issue of *Domestic Commerce*. "Production of these grain foods rose from a start a 100 years ago to hit a high in 1945 of about 1,000,000,000 pounds, 10 times the output in 1914," Miss Mullen said.

"There is no doubt but that World War II, with resultant shortages of some types of food and the rationing of others, helped to make thrifty housewives in the United States macaroni-conscious . . . ," she added.

USDA WILL PURCHASE CANNED ATLANTIC MACKEREL

The Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has announced that it will receive offers for the sale of canned Atlantic mackerel required to be set aside in 1946, pursuant to War Food Order 44, as amended, or in accordance with subsequent orders. Text of the USDA announcement follows:

Purchases will be made by negotiated contracts executed by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The contract terms and conditions are set forth in three separate documents: Form PBT-400, "Standard Contract Conditions," contains conditions which may apply to purchases of all commodities; Form SCT-56, "Canned Fish—General Contract Conditions," contains additional terms applying to purchases of canned fish; and Form SCO-81, "Canned Atlantic Mackerel—Offer of Sale," which details the conditions applying specifically to this type of fish.

Canners who expect to operate during 1946 are requested to submit their proposals as soon as practicable, but in any case not later than June 30, 1946. Offers must be submitted on prescribed Offer Form SCO-81, in an original and four signed copies, and must be mailed to Special Commodities Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., at any time prior to but not later than June 30, 1946. Notice of acceptance will be given by telegram filed in Washington, D. C., within fifteen days after the date of receipt of the offer. A copy of the offer form executed by CCC will be returned for the canner's file.

The "Notice of Tender of Delivery," Form SCO-56a, is a revision of Form PBO-401a but it will be used for the same purpose and in the same manner as the old form.

Further details with respect to this program may be obtained from N. W. Waller of the Washington Office, whose telephone number is REpublic 4142, Extension 3559, except that questions pertaining to shipping should be referred to W. E. Austin, Northeast Area Office, Shipping and Storage Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, 70 State Street, Boston 9, Massachusetts, or to the Shipping and Storage Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, 150 Broadway, New York, New York.

Canners Urged to Save Coal

Civilian Production Administrator John D. Small on Thursday warned that the Nation's coal stock was insufficient to maintain even the most vital services of food processing and cold storage plants in certain areas. Mr. Small, in an official statement, called on the food processing industry to "use every possible means to restrict consumption of coal and of utility services dependent on coal . . . unless it is of the greatest benefit to the community."

OPA Maine Sardine Committee

Appointment of a Maine Canned Sardine Industry Advisory Committee and an announcement of its first meeting for May 16, was reported this week by the Office of Price Administration. Members of the committee are:

James Abernethy, Sunset Packing Co., West Pembroke; Glenn Lawrence, Belfast Packing Co., Belfast; Frank A. Pike, Seaboard Packing Co., Lubec; Mose Pike, Holmes Packing Corp., Eastport; Calvin Stinson, Stinson Canning Co., Prospect Harbor; Milroy J. Warren, R. J. Peacock Canning Co., Lubec; and Donald G. Wilson, B. H. Wilson Fisheries, Eastport.

Sugar Director Resigns

Earl B. Wilson, Director of the Sugar Branch for U. S. Department of Agriculture, has resigned, effective May 31, to return to private industry.

Mr. Wilson first came to the Department of Agriculture on a full time basis in February, 1943, as director of the Sugar Division of the Commodity Credit Corporation. When the Production and Marketing Administration was created in August, 1945, Mr. Wilson was named to head the Sugar Branch. During his work with the Department, Mr. Wilson has also been very active in the Cuban-American sugar purchase negotiations and has been chairman of the American Committee to arrange these purchases.

California Sardine Industry Production for 6-Year Period

The pack of canned sardines in California during the 1945-46 season totaled 3,770,993 cases of ovals or equivalent, compared with 3,656,457 cases in 1944-45, according to the California Sardine Products Institute. The following table shows the production of the industry during the past six years, by districts and by types of operation for each district:

Year and district	Plants operating	Sardine catch	Oil output	Meal output	Canned pack
1940–1941	*Number*	*Tons*	*Gallons*	*Tons*	*Cases*
Northern District	33	117,817	4,809,853	20,541	288,413
Central District	18	165,145	5,197,570	25,805	1,219,846
Southern District	19	171,747	2,390,887	24,776	1,608,207
TOTAL	70	454,709	12,398,310	71,122	3,116,466
1941–1942					
Northern District	35	185,921	7,162,343	29,935	854,709
Central District	18	249,717	7,222,683	36,309	2,429,804
Southern District	20	147,825	2,113,939	18,859	1,870,601
TOTAL	73	583,463	16,498,965	85,103	5,155,114
1942–1943					
Northern District	33	115,586	4,467,454	19,114	413,165
Central District	23	182,431	5,586,636	28,167	1,418,033
Southern District	18	202,597	3,090,994	29,614	1,862,073
TOTAL	74	500,614	13,145,084	76,895	3,693,271
1943–1944					
Northern District	34	126,132	5,018,816	20,064	425,487
Central District	24	212,347	6,578,371	32,835	1,562,541
Southern District	17	135,007	2,185,179	20,608	1,161,750
TOTAL	73	473,486	13,782,366	73,507	3,149,778
1944–1945					
Northern District	34	136,337	5,616,063	22,258	458,345
Central District	23	234,613	8,305,401	34,920	1,659,053
Southern District	18	177,465	3,781,148	26,795	1,539,059
TOTAL	75	548,415	17,702,612	83,973	3,656,457
1945–1946					
Northern District	38	83,483	3,581,808	12,765	456,001
Central District	25	142,282[1]	4,803,560	20,297	1,220,579
Southern District	23	170,325	2,846,216	23,481	2,094,413
TOTAL	86	396,090	11,231,584	56,543	3,770,993

[1] Includes 226 tons for salting, etc.

FOOD CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING MATERIALS EXEMPT FROM PROVISIONS OF FREIGHT EMBARGO BY A. A. R.

Association Joins with Government Agencies and Can Companies to Cause Action

Shipments of canned foods had been made exempt from the freight embargo as issued May 3 to be effective May 10 (see last week's INFORMATION LETTER) but containers and necessary packaging materials for food were not included in the exempt list. On May 8, just prior to the effective date of the embargo, the latter were added to the exemptions under terms of Exception No. 11 to Car Service Division Embargo 237. This exception was the result of concerted action and recommendations made by the National Canners Association, its Traffic Committee, the Department of Agriculture, and representatives of the can companies and glass container manufacturers. The embargo was originally imposed by the Association of American Railroads in accordance with a directive of the Office of Defense Transportation, because of the critical railroad fuel situation resulting from the current coal strike.

As announced in last week's LETTER, Exception 3 to the embargo included canned foods among the items that do not require a special permit. In the changes made May 8 this exception was broadened slightly and now reads:

"3. All food for human consumption including wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, rice, cereal products, soybeans, salt, canned goods, sugar, lard substitutes, perishable foods, vegetable oils, flax, and barley malt consigned to cereal and baby food manufacturers. Feed for animals and poultry, not including hay and straw. Seeds for food products and livestock feed."

Following the original announcement of the embargo, the N.C.A. questioned the Association of American Railroads on the issuance of permits for the shipment of containers and packaging materials and was informed that permits would be issued only when a canner's inventory was down to a four or five days' supply and a shipment was necessary to keep the plant in operation. Another proposed requirement would have limited the amount of a shipment of containers and packaging materials to a 10-day operating supply. With growing power curtailments throughout the country and the cutting of train service, it was apparent that any sysem of issuing individual permits might occasion delays resulting in food losses.

Recommendations to AAR covering relief from the embargo provisions were as follows:

"(a) Containers and necessary packaging material for food and drugs as described in Exceptions 3 and 5 when consigned to manufacturers or processors of such products; (b) Materials and supplies consigned to manufacturers when for use in production of such containers and packaging material as described in Paragraph a of this Section; (c) Materials and supplies used in production of food and drugs as exempted in Exceptions 3 and 5 of the General Embargo."

The exception added to the Embargo Notice by the May 8 amendment reads:

"11. Containers and necessary packaging material for food and drugs as described in Exceptions 3 and 5 when consigned to manufacturers or processors of such products."

Permits were granted May 10 to ship tin-mill products to container manufacturers for making containers for food products. Requests for permits for shipment of other materials for the manufacture of food containers must originate with the consignee, it was stated.

Also, the Association is following through with efforts to obtain exceptions covering the shipment of canning machinery and equipment needed immediately. Similar action is being taken with regard to tomato plants.

Repair and maintenance parts and other equipment necessary to the operation of canning and food processing plants are under the general embargo. Canners, in making their application for a permit, must furnish the following information required by Embargo No. 237:

"(1) Commodity, (2) Number of cars or if LCL, weight, (3) Shipper and point of origin, (4) Routing, (5) Destination, (6) Statement as to immediate need including certification as to number of days' supply in consignee's stock."

A request for a permit should be addressed to W. C. Kendall, Chairman, Car Service Division, Association of American Railroads, Washington, D. C.

Canned Milk Statistics

Production of evaporated milk (cases) for March remained at about the same level as in the preceding three months, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported this week. Production was estimated at 234,000,000 pounds in March, a decline of 29 percent from the corresponding month last year and a decrease of 8 percent from the 1940-44 March average. For the first 3 months of the year, production was 595,200,000 pounds or 28 percent less than in the corresponding period last year. The seasonal gain in production from February to March was much sharper than the 1940-44 average but was about the same as the seasonal gain of a year earlier.

Canned sweetened condensed milk production was 9,965,000 pounds for March, a decline of 11 percent from a year earlier but a gain of 23 percent from the 1940-44 average for the month. During January through March, output was 26,965,000 pounds, a total of 8 percent less than in the same period of 1945.

Manufacturers' stocks of case goods at the end of March continued at much lower levels than on the same date last year or than the average for the date during 1940-44. Stocks of canned evaporated milk totaled 59,045,000 pounds, a decline of 45 percent from the same date last year and 61 percent below the 5-year average for March 31. Stocks of canned condensed milk were 4,415,000 pounds—44 percent below a year earlier and 34 percent less than the 1940-44 average for the date. Combining wholesale grocers' stocks and manufacturers' stocks, the stocks of evaporated milk on March 31 were 42 percent less than a year earlier and of canned condensed milk were 46 percent smaller.

Rogers Receives Army Award

Hatton B. Rogers, Jr., Phillips Packing Co., Cambridge, Md., has received the Army's commendation ribbon for exceptional wartime service with the Quartermaster Corps. Mr. Rogers was a member of the Washington laboratory staff of the National Canners Association before entering duty with the Army.

Mexican Vegetable Exports

Severe cold waves in January and February 1946 damaged winter vegetables growing in Sinaloa, Mexico, for export to the United States, states the U. S. Department of Commerce. From the beginning of the 1945-46 season until February 25 exports of vegetables totaled 3,246 carloads, of which 2,353 were tomatoes, 276 peas, 386 peppers, and 231 mixed vegetables. A total of 4,622 carloads exported in the corresponding period of the 1944-45 season comprised 3,894 carloads of tomatoes, 344 peas, 255 peppers, and 129 carloads of mixed vegetables.

Cuban Sugar Delegates May Not Return for Some Time

Cuban delegates have not returned to Washington to renew conferences with representatives of the U. S. Government concerning the Commodity Credit Corporation's purchase of the 1946 and 1947 sugar crops. U. S. government officials state they do not know when the delegates will return, if at all.

Reports from refinery and crop specialists who recently have returned from Cuba are that underneath the surface there is a good deal of political turmoil in Cuba and opposition has been growing to the Cuban Government's proposal to sign contracts for the sale of two-year crops. Organized Cuban labor groups are dominant in this reported opposition, the basis for which is said to be their objection for fear of the possibility of inflated commodity prices here and the consequent higher cost to them of the food products, such as flour, rice and lard which, as to quantity and not price, the U. S. Government had guaranteed to furnish as part of the sugar deal.

CCC will continue to buy sugar coming in from Cuba on an individual cargo basis, in the absence of signed contracts, and will continue to absorb the duty. Whether or not the downward revision of crop estimates and current Cuban reactions would be likely to affect earlier per capita allotment of sugar in the United States, U. S. Department of Agriculture officials imply that some changes might have to be made later on in sugar rationing. This would, of course, officials said, affect industrial users to whatever extent a readjustment of allotments became necessary.

Cuban Vegetable Crop

Exports of fresh vegetables from Habana, Cuba, in February 1946 amounted to 17,000,000 pounds, approximating the average February shipments of the prewar years 1939-41 and nearly three times as large as February 1945 shipments of 6,000,000 pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. Tomato exports in February 1946 totaled 15,500,000 pounds, exceeding the prewar February average of 13,100,000 pounds. The recent increase in exports of fresh vegetables from Cuba is due principally to the continued improvement in facilities for direct shipment from Habana to the New York market. Although larger than in February 1945, shipments of green peppers, eggplants, okra, cucumbers, and other vegetables were far below the prewar rate.

Shipments from Habana of pineapple prematurely ripened by chemical treatment amounted to 6,600,000 pounds in February 1946, as compared with 5,000,000 pounds during February 1945. In addition, 3,900,000 pounds of pineapples were exported from Sagua la Grande. Other fresh fruits exported from Habana in small quantities were papayas, watermelons, and bananas. Total shipments of fruit from that port were 6,700,000 pounds.

Sugar "Drawbacks" Explained

Canners exporting canned foods containing sugar are not entitled to "drawbacks" based on the sugar content of their exported products, since all Cuban sugar currently imported into the United States is being brought in by the Commodity Credit Corporation, which is absorbing the duty, the Association has been advised.

Under normal circumstances affecting private trade, if, as and when a private importer brings in raw sugar from any foreign country, he must pay duty on it—unless he brings it in "under bond," when there is no duty, of course. If he places it in an unbonded warehouse and then refines and exports the refined product, he is entitled to a refund of the duty he paid. This is the "drawback."

Drawbacks are payable, however, only on sugar which has been imported, refined and re-exported *either as sugar or in any other form* within three years of the date of importation. Since, as above stated, CCC now is absorbing the duty on all Cuban sugar, and all U. S. refiners now obtain their sugar through CCC and pay no duty on the raw sugar they refine, they are not entitled to any drawback on any refined product they may export. Neither are the industrial users of sugar procured from the refineries entitled to "drawbacks."

Survey on Retail Food Sales

Retail food store sales in 1945 set a record by totaling $18,410,000,000, according to a survey recently made by *The Progressive Grocer*. The 1945 record sales were 3 percent greater than in the previous year. Of the grocery and combination stores sales, independents accounted for 68 percent of the total and chains, 32 percent.

Copies of the survey, which is entitled "Facts in Food and Grocery Distribution," may be obtained from *The Progressive Grocer*, 161 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

National Foreign Trade Week Will Be Observed May 19-25

National Foreign Trade Week will be observed this year, May 19-25. The week is sponsored by the United States Chamber of Commerce and has been held each year since 1935.

Highlight of the week will be a world trade luncheon to be given on May 24 in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria. The luncheon is being sponsored by the joint New York Foreign Trade Week Committee, which comprises more than 20 of the principal organizations interested in foreign trade in the greater New York area.

The Committee also is arranging to display a flag symbolic of National Foreign Trade Week at various public places throughout the metropolitan New York area.

Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace, in commenting on the celebration of National Foreign Trade Week said: "We can no longer afford to debate about the advantages and disadvantages of an expanded foreign trade. The time has come to do business with the world, on a scale suitable to the needs of the world. Other nations urgently need our goods. We need their goods; and in order to build and preserve a world free from the fear of war, we must establish a free interchange of products, materials, and services among the peoples of the earth. These are the realities and the imperative needs that face humanity in the year 1946."

Argentina's Fruit Harvest

Argentina's 1944-45 fruit harvest was only fair, because of unfavorable weather and disease, the U. S. Department of Commerce reported this week. The apple yield was good, but the production of pears, grapes, quinces, and cherries was less than during the preceding year.

However, exports of fruit in the first 11 months of 1945 were much higher than in the like period of 1944. Shipments of apples amounted to 17,314 metric tons—almost double the exports of the corresponding period of the preceding year. Despite a poor crop, exports of grapes increased from 1,737 metric tons in the January-November period of 1944 to 3,048 tons in the corresponding period of 1945. Pear shipments showed a smaller increase as a result of the slump in domestic production and the fact that there was a somewhat greater price advantage to the shipper from the sale of apples.

Army Cuts Reserve Stockpile to 60 Days' Rations, Announces Large Surplus of Canned R. S. P. Cherries Will Be Released

As a move to conserve food, the Army Quartermaster Corps announced on Tuesday that reserve food stocks for troops in the Middle and Western Pacific have been lowered from a 60-day stockpile to an estimated 45-day supply. Prior to V-J Day, food stocks for 90 days were authorized for these areas.

Following the report of a special civilian committee of food experts to Secretary of War Patterson that it found evidence of overstocking and waste, the Army has stressed that it has been trying to correct this.

Simultaneously, the Army announced that its supplies of at least one canned food product—canned R. S. P. cherries—had exceeded its actual requirements and that in addition to declaring surplus approximately 16,000,000 pounds of this commodity, all plans for Army procurement of canned R. S. P. cherries from this year's crop have been cancelled. At the same time, it was reported the Navy likewise has declared surplus nearly 2,000,000 pounds of canned cherries.

Whether the canned cherries will be released to the civilian trade or be used in some relief program could not be determined this week but a meeting of the USDA Processed Cherry Industry Advisory Committee has been called in Washington for May 14 to discuss this problem.

The reduction in the Army's stockpiles also will make available for other use, such as export to hungry areas abroad, about 25 percent more of such foods as coffee, evaporated milk, flour, rice, and sugar that had been originally destined for Pacific area troops.

Meanwhile, the Navy, in another report, announced that it had turned loose 156,000,000 pounds of surplus food since last November. The foods, valued at $25,000,000, were excess stocks not used because of rapid demobilization.

The Navy transferred 44,000,000 pounds to the Agriculture Department for civilian use and 74,000,000 pounds for sale to foreign governments. Another 38,000,000 pounds went to the Army for civilian relief in Germany and Japan.

Committee Wants Controls on Glass Containers Kept

Recommendation that the present controls on the manufacture of glass containers be allowed to remain in full force and that no amendments be initiated at this time was made to the Civilian Production Administration at a recent meeting of the Glass Containers Industry Advisory Committee. This recommendation was made after government spokesmen had outlined the present critical situation in tinplate and paper containers and after it had been pointed out that amendments at this time to the glass container control order (L-103) would increase the demand for critically short pig iron.

Industry spokesmen placed the demand for glass containers at over 130 million gross as against an expected production of 110 to 112 million gross this year. A substantial part of the increased demand this year is attributed to food and other packers who are suffering from a lack of containers caused because of tin mill products shortages, and the tight supply of pulp and paper. CPA spokesmen emphasized that glass container manufacturers would have to continue to supplement these container shortages with glass packages for food and other necessities.

U. S. Census Bureau reports show that while overall shipments of glass containers were up about 15 percent in first quarter of 1946 over 1945, food container shipments increased almost 25 percent. Despite this record output there exists a large unfilled demand for all types of containers. Glass container plants are operating at peak capacity and there is little chance of additional facilities for operation this year. If this were possible, it is doubtful whether certain raw materials essential for glass manufacture, notably soda ash, could be expanded.

Death Takes A. W. Bitting, Pioneer Food Technologist

Dr. A. W. Bitting, 75, one of the pioneers in food technology, died recently at Lafayette, Ind., following an illness of several years. Dr. Bitting, a native of Bourbon, Ind., engaged in agricultural experiment station work after graduation from college and at one time was associated with the Florida Experiment Station and the Purdue Experiment Station.

He became associated with the Bureau of Chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1907 and in 1913 he joined the staff of the National Canners Association as a bacteriologist with the N.C.A. Washington Research Laboratory. From 1919 to 1922 he was Director of Research for the Glass Container Association. Since that time, Dr. Bitting has served chiefly as a consulting food technologist.

Dr. Bitting was director of food exhibits for the 1933 "A Century of Progress" exhibition at Chicago, Ill., and for the Golden Gate Exposition at San Francisco, Calif., in 1937.

He was awarded the Nicolas Appert medal last year.

15-Man Board to Rule on Excess Profit Tax Refunds

The Bureau of Internal Revenue on May 7 announced that a 15 man board to pass on applications for excess profits tax relief will be set up by the Treasury in an effort to speed action on the applications involving billions of dollars in excess profits tax refunds. At the same time, the Internal Revenue Bureau issued a comprehensive supplementary statement announcing that it will not only overhaul its procedures along new lines but will re-examine the much criticized interpretations of Section 722 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Joseph Nunan, in describing the proposed set-up of the new board, stated that it will be organized as follows:

The board will be furnished with an adequate staff of technical and clerical personnel. It will be expected to develop a reservoir of conferees who, in Washington or in the field, will carry out the board's policies.

The taxpayer, after passing through the procedures in the Office of the Internal Revenue agent in charge, in which the board will have direct supervision and contact, will, if he so desires, be afforded an opportunity for a hearing under procedures which the board will establish. There will be established in the office of each Internal Revenue Agent in charge a committee of specialists on Section 722 matters who will operate under supervision of the board and will give group consideration to the claims.

The committee will examine the claim prior to detailed investigation of the supporting data in order to determine the basic issues and thereby expedite consideration of the claim. Thereafter the supporting data, when furnished by the taxpayer, will be referred to an investigating agent, also specializing in Section 722 matters, who will then proceed with the examination and verification of the data under the supervision of the committee. Upon the completion of the agent's report the committee will confer with the taxpayer.

500,000 Workers Needed for Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plants This Summer, According to U. S. Employment Service

Approximately 500,000 full and part-time workers will be urgently needed this summer to process the fruit and vegetable canning crops of the Nation, Robert C. Goodwin, Director of the U. S. Employment Service, Department of Labor, has announced. Mr. Goodwin said that local communities will be expected to supply this season an even greater number of workers from among their own men, women, and out-of-school youths, since wartime sources of labor, such as prisoners of war and foreign laborers, will not be available for food processing this year. An estimated 30,000 PW's and 5,000 foreign workers were used in last year's food processing activity.

In addition to the shortage of PW's and foreign laborers to supplement the local labor supply, Mr. Goodwin said that the lack of housing for migratory workers will add to the food processors' difficulties. "Although the flow of in-migrant labor will be freer this season in contrast to the war years, the employment of migratory workers will be limited because of stringent housing facilities," Mr. Goodwin said. "Local USES offices will make every effort to recruit necessary workers in immediate areas. They will also assist food processing plants in major canning areas to find necessary housing for in-migrant workers."

Recruitment drives for workers in food packing firms are under way in some States while comprehensive campaigns are being prepared in others, Mr. Goodwin said. "Persons with daytime jobs will be encouraged to work evenings, Saturdays, and during spare time to meet production goals during the peak packing season. Their efforts, as well as those of out-of-school youths and others in the Nation's canneries and quick freezing and other food preserving plants will mean that everyone will eat better this winter."

Mr. Goodwin also called for increased home canning to supplement the commercial pack.

The Nation's time table for labor requirements for canneries from June to September is estimated by the USES as follows:

Date	Cumulative Number of Workers Needed
June 1	175,000
July 1	250,000
August 1	309,000
August 15	395,000
September 1	500,000

Concentrated Orange Juice

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced the contemplated sale of approximately 127,901 gallons of concentrated orange juice. All requests or offers to purchase the concentrated orange juice must be received by the Contracts and Records Division, Fruit and Vegetable Branch (PMA), U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., not later than 5 p. m., EST, May 21.

Corn Canners' Officers

At the recent annual spring meeting of Corn Canners' Service Bureau in Chicago the following officers were elected for the current year: President—C. H. Chitham, Milford, Ill.; first vice president—J. LeRoy Farmer, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; second vice president—F. S. Silver, Colora, Md.; secretary—J. P. Kraemer, Sussex, Wis.; and executive secretary-treasurer—Harvey R. Burr, Chicago, Ill.

USDA Meat Board Report

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended May 4 totaled 268,000,000 pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture Meat Board. This production was 12 percent more than the 240,000,000 pounds the preceding week but 1 percent below the same week in 1944.

Schools for Mold Counters

Two schools for training canning technicians in the Howard mold count method will be held this year. The first will be held at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., July 10 to 19. The first three days will be devoted to elementary instruction for the benefit of students who have not had previous training. Communications about this school should be addressed to the Indiana Canners Association, Indianapolis, Ind.

The second school will be held at the Geneva Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., July 24 to August 2. The first three days will be primarily for students who have not had previous training. Communications should be addressed to Dr. Carl L. Pederson, Geneva Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y.

Both the Indiana Canners Association and the Association of New York State Canners, Inc., have stated that technicians employed by commercial canning firms will be welcome at either school not only from the particular States, but also from other areas.

The instruction at both schools will be under the supervision of Howard Smith, of the Washington Research Laboratory of the National Canners Association, with the assistance of representatives from the Research Departments of the American Can Company, Continental Can Company, and the Crown Can Company.

All of those who are planning to attend either school should communicate with the particular school for instructions regarding equipment, etc.

1945 Canned Okra and Canned Okra and Tomato Pack Reported

The 1945 pack of canned okra and canned okra and tomatoes amounted to 283,604 actual cases as compared with 239,985 actual cases in 1944, according to the Association's Division of Statistics. The major portion of the pack was in No. 2 cans.

Principal states packing okra and okra and tomatoes are Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania, with Louisiana packing the greater part of the United States total.

The following table compares the 1945 canned okra and canned okra and tomato pack with that of 1944 by can sizes and styles of pack:

Style of pack	24/2 Cases	24/2½ Cases	6/10 Cases	303 Cases	Tin and glass Cases	Total Cases
1945 PACK OF OKRA						
Whole okra	10,731	538	430	.....	.....	11,699
Cut okra	195,989	5,340	16,062	.....	5,682	223,082
Okra and tomatoes	46,138	2,034	652	.....	.....	48,824
Total pack	252,858	7,921	17,144	.....	5,682	283,605
1944 PACK OF OKRA						
Whole okra	11,609	969	1,484	.....	2,578	16,640
Cut okra	107,587	2,699	21,105	25,051	17,728	174,170
Okra and tomatoes	47,308	1,359	508	.....	.....	49,175
Total pack	166,504	5,027	23,097	25,051	20,306	239,985

CONGRESS SUMMARY

Mounting pressure caused by continuance of the coal strike, for consideration of labor legislation, hastened final Senate approval of the British loan late Friday. Before recessing Thursday evening, Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley received approval of a unanimous consent agreement under which the Senate bound itself to take a final vote on the British loan the following afternoon. Senator Barkley stated it would then be in order to immediately take up the Senate Labor Committee's report on the House passed Case bill (H. R. 4908). Senate Committee recommendations on this bill were outlined in the LETTER for April 20, page 176 and a summary of the bill as it passed the House may be found in the LETTER for February 12, page 70.

Pepper Bill Considered

The House Committee on Labor began consideration of amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act on May 6 when the Committee voted to use the language of the Pepper bill (S.1349) in the form in which it was reported to the Senate as a basis for discussion. The Committee has scheduled May 15 as the date on which it will vote to report to the House the outcome of its deliberations. S.1349, as it was reported to the Senate, was summarized in the INFORMATION LETTER for March 9, page 126.

Interior Funds Slashed

The House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday slashed by nearly 50 percent the recommended appropriation for the Department of the Interior (H. Rept. 1984 to H.R. 6335), by cutting the Interior budget from $326,765,830 to $174,652,579. Affected by the cut was the Fish and Wildlife Service, whose budget was reduced from $11,108,275 to $8,235,249.

Mobile Fish Laboratories

Three mobile research laboratories, equipped to make field studies of problems in the production and handling of fishery products, will be placed in operation by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service next week, Albert M. Day, Director of the Service, has announced.

The mobile laboratories will supplement the work of the three permanent laboratories now maintained by the Service in continental United States for technological research in fishery problems—at Seattle, Boston, and College Park, Md.

NWSB Issues New Wage Form

The National Wage Stabilization Board announced on May 8 the issuance of its Form 9, to be used hereafter by employers as a notice stating that a wage or salary increase is being made with no present intention of seeking a price adjustment but reserving the employer's right to apply for approval for pricing purposes in the future.

The wage and salary regulations issued by the Office of Economic Stabilization last March 8, provide that an employer who makes a wage adjustment with no present intention of seeking price relief, but who wishes to reserve that right for the future, may do so by filing a notice to that effect with the NWSB, through the local Wage and Hour Offices of the U. S. Department of Labor, within 30 days after the date the increase is first reflected in his current pay roll. Approval sought at any later time will be given or withheld on the same basis as if it had been sought before the increase was made. The Office of Price Administration will then consider the application for price relief.

Failure to file such a notice precludes the employer from seeking approval of the NWSB of the increase for pricing purposes as long as stabilization controls remain in existence. Pending issuance of the new forms, the agency has accepted notices received by letter, but effective May 22, Form 9 will be required of each employer filing a notice.

The new form requests the identity of the company, the nature of the industry involved, the number of employees affected, the nature of the increase put into effect and the date on which the increase first was reflected in pay rolls. A detachable stub is provided to be returned by the Regional Board to the employer, confirming receipt of the notice. It is available at all local offices of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor. The completed forms are filed with the local Wage and Hour offices, for the convenience of employers in the same manner as are the standard Form 10 applications for approval of adjustments in wages or salaries.

1945 Vegetable Pack Bulletin

The booklet, "Canned Food Pack Statistics: 1945, Part I—Vegetables," is now in the hands of the printer and copies will be mailed to the industry during the coming week. The booklet compares the 1945 vegetable pack with previous years and was prepared by the Association's Division of Statistics.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Directory information needed	201
Containers embargo-free	201
Food processors assured emergency coal supplies by SFC	201
Program of the N.C.A. Directors' meeting	201
Forthcoming meetings	202
Technical advisory committee on baby foods to be formed	202
Some fruit ceilings lifted	202
Macaroni products increase	202
USDA to purchase canned Atlantic mackerel	203
Canners urged to save coal	203
Sugar director resigns	203
California sardine industry production for 6-year period	203
OPA Maine sardine committee	203
Food containers and packaging materials exempt from provisions of freight embargo by A. A. R.	204
Canned milk statistics	204
Rogers receives Army award	204
Mexican vegetable exports	204
Cuban sugar delegates may not return for some time	205
Cuban vegetable crop	205
Sugar "drawbacks" explained	205
Survey on retail food sales	205
National foreign trade week will be observed May 19-25	205
Argentina's fruit harvest	205
Army cuts reserve stockpile to 60 days' rations, announces large surplus of canned R.S.P. cherries will be released	206
Committee wants controls on glass containers kept	206
Death takes A. W. Bitting, pioneer food technologist	206
15-man board to rule on excess profit tax refunds	206
500,000 workers needed for fruit and vegetable processing plants this summer, according to U. S. Employment Service	207
Concentrated orange juice	207
Corn canners' officers	207
USDA Meat Board report	207
1945 canned okra and okra and tomato pack reported	207
Schools for mold counters	207
Congress summary	208
Mobile fish laboratories	208
NWSB issues new wage form	208
1945 vegetable pack bulletin	208